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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS,



ITS CLIMATE. SOIL, 

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,

 MANUFACTURES

—AND—

MINERAL RESOURCES



With a Summary of the
Advantages of

MASSAC COUNTY.



—BY—

D. H. FREEMAN.

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METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS,
JOURNAL-REPUBLICAN PRINT,

1892.



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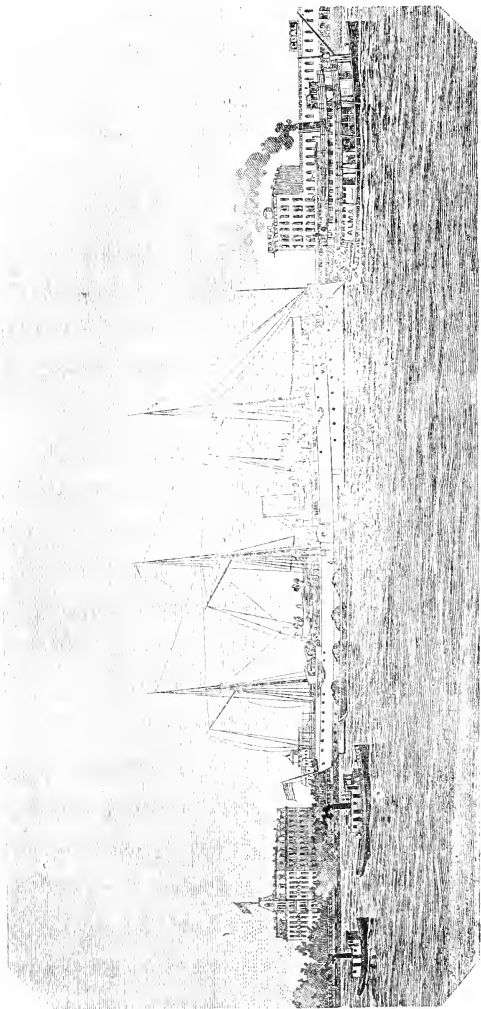

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METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS,
JOURNAL-REPUBLICAN PRINT.

1882.

Mouth of the Ohio at, Cairo.



United States Cruiser "Concord" lying at Anchor.

INTRODUCTORY.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to give correct and reliable information in regard to the abundant and varied resources of Southern Illinois. Also to describe the general features of the country, its climate, soil, rivers and streams; its agriculture, stock-raising, horticulture and mineral resources.

HISTORY.

Settled by the French as early as 1673; and held by them until 1762, except for a short time when Spain had possession; it was taken by the British and held by them until 1878, when Gen. George Rogers Clark marched his army, of about 200, from Ft. Massac, near Metropolis, across the wilderness to Kaskaskia. The inhabitants were taken by surprise, surrendered at once and Ft. Chartres and Cahokia soon followed, and has remained in possession of the United States ever since.

A few of Clark's men remained and others came in, and in 1800 there were about 3,000 whites

in the whole state of Illinois, mostly in Southern division. The first organization was under Arthur St. Clair, who went to Kaskaskia in 1790 as Governor of the new Territory, which extended at that time, as far east as Pennsylvania. In 1809 the Territory of Illinois was set apart. In 1812 the first Legislature was convened and a delegate to Congress was chosen. In 1818 it was received as the 22d State, with a population of 15,000, nearly all in this Southern division. From that time to the present the growth has been steady and the people generally prosperous and contented.

Explanatory.

When properly understood a glory instead of a reproach. A misconstruction of the significance of this name has given to many the idea that it represents darkness.

The term originated among the early settlers of territories farther north, who were frequently obliged to come to this fertile country for food, as did the Israelites of old, to the land of Egypt. Hence, the name is our pride—not our shame.

Descriptive.

The Third Grand Division of the State consists of thirty-four counties, beginning with Crawford on the East side, crossing in an almost direct line to Madison on the West, including all the Southern end of the State, and containing an area of 150,121 square miles.

This territory lies between 37 degrees and 39 degrees 15 minutes North Latitude. (The same as between Baltimore, Md., and Petersburg, Va.) It will be seen that it lies much farther South than any other Northern State, except California, and as the elevation at Cairo is but 300 feet, the climate is much milder than on the same Parallel either East or West.

This section of country is bounded on the

East by the Wabash river, on the South and South-east by the Ohio river and on the West by the Mississippi river.

Just one-half of these thirty-four counties front on these three navigable rivers, with an average frontage of about thirty miles for each country. Thus furnishing almost unparalleled shipping facilities.

Here is a county capable of producing almost every article needed by civilized man. It has mines of coal, iron, lead, silver and spar. Quarries of marble, stone and fire-clay. Wells and springs of mineral waters in great variety, including salt. Forests of the best timber, and a diversified soil, adapted to the producing of all the fruits and cereals of the temperate zone.

It has been well said, 'If a great wall were built around 'Egypt' cutting off all communication with the outside world, the inhabitants would not suffer any great inconvenience, as they could produce everything necessary for their comfort, and very many of the luxuries.'

Elevation.

Cairo is 300 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. In going North there is a gradual rise until South Pass (Cobden) is reached, where the Illinois Central railroad depot is on a level with Lake Michigan. The Ozark range, which crosses the State here, is much higher, some peaks reaching an altitude of 800 feet, which is the highest land in this section except a range of mounds, some 30 miles East of St. Louis.

Eagle mountain on the East side, in Saline and Hardin counties has an elevation of 600 feet. This is the Northern branch of the Ozarks. The center of the range, striking the Ohio river near Golconda, Pope county, attain near 600 feet in highth, and the Southern spur, which crosses the

Ohio at Grand Chain, Pulaski county, has an altitude of nearly 500 feet. The average elevation, north of this range, is between 500 and 600 feet.

Drainage.

Besides the three large rivers, which almost surround the territory under consideration, the country is drained by numerous smaller rivers, at least five of which are navigable for considerable distance, in good stages of water. These are the Little Wabash and Saline on the East, the Cache on the South, and the Big Muddy and Kaskaskia, or Okaw, on the West.

There are many other considerable streams, some of them worthy of being called rivers. The Embarras and Bonpas emptying into the Wabash; Big Creek, Grand Pierre, Lusk, Bay and Massac creeks discharging their waters into the Ohio; and Wood rivers, Cahokia and Shoal creek flow into the Mississippi. Besides these, there are numerous tributary streams, which form a perfect system of drainage.

Climate.

The average temperature at St. Louis is 55 degrees. The warm breath of the Gulf flows up the valley of the Mississippi—a veritable “Gulf Stream.” The traditional “oldest inhabitant” has seen the Ohio river frozen over between Cairo and Paducah, Ky., (50 miles) but once, the river being extremely low when winter closed in. Southern cane grows to the height of 25 feet on the North bank of the Ohio, and the Magnolia Grandiflora and Crape Myrtle of the Gulf States, flourish here without winter protection. Thousands of bales of cotton were grown in these lower counties in the years immediately following the war.

But while we raise almost every product of

the temperate zone, we claim a special adaptability for many leading crops. The diversified climate giving a much greater variety of products, than the two degrees of latitude would indicate. Less snow falls at Cairo than at Knoxville, Tenn., yet the climate varies but little from that point, the difference of latitude being offset by 1,000 feet of elevation.

In the extreme Southern counties wheat is frequently harvested in May, and it is a quite common practice to raise two crops of Irish potatoes on the same land in a season.

The average rainfall at Cairo is 55 inches. At Ft. Riley, Kans., it is 21.90 inches.

Soil.

The soil is greatly varied, which, instead of being a detriment, has proven of the greatest advantage, as it is adapted to the production of almost every variety of grain, grass and fruit. Each variety of soil has been found to be especially adapted to some particular crop.

Some of the thin clay lands, which were considered of but little value, when corn was the principal crop of the early settlers, are now the most valuable lands in the State, and thousands of acres are being set to apple orchards, every year. The sand ridges of the bottom lands, which would not produce corn, are found to be unequaled for melon growing.

Adjacent to the rivers and creeks, the soil is of alluvial formation, and of unknown depth, in many places, and is practically inexhaustable, as is proven by the "American Bottom" lands of the Mississippi river, some of which have been cultivated, (almost exclusively to corn) for more than two centuries. Also on the Ohio and Wabash rivers, are lands which have been continuously cropped for near one hundred years, with-

out the use of any fertilizer whatever.

The prairies adjacent to the American Bottom are deep and black limestone soil. East of the Okaw river the soil is principally clay loam, of a grayish color, which is the predominant shade of both prairie and timber lands. The clay subsoil comes near the surface, in many places, and in the early settlement of the country these lands were considered of inferior quality, but in recent years they have come to the front in the production of wheat and apples.

It might be supposed that the rougher lands of the Ozark range, which spread out in fan-shape, soon after crossing the Mississippi river from Missouri, and extend through several counties, would naturally be poor and barren, as is often the case with regions of mountainous nature. But such is not the fact. The very tops

Forests.

The somewhat prevalent idea that Illinois is one vast prairie, similar to the Dakotas, is a great mistake, as these thirty-four counties were originally more than one half heavily timbered. It is sixty miles north of Cairo to the first small prairie, and one hundred miles to the south end of the Grand Prairie. These luxuriant forests consist of the various species of oak, black and white walnut, white and yellow poplar, (tulip) hard and soft maple, gum, ash, black and honey locust, all the different varieties of hickory, linden, sycamore, cottonwood, pecan, persimmon, beech, sassafras, mulberry, red cedar, catalpa, and in the extreme southern part, the cypress.

The undergrowth is dogwood, red bud, or Judas tree, pawpaw, hazel, sumac, buckeye, spicewood, grape, wild plum, crabapple, &c. There are vast forests of this fine timber standing and awaiting the manufacturer. Many mills and factories are in operation, but there is room

and material for hundreds more.

The oak is not excelled anywhere, and offers great inducements to the manufacturer of Agricultural implements; also for car works and steamboat building. The hickory is of the finest quality for the manufacture of carriage and wagon material, ax handles, &c.

Sweet, or red gum, which is but little known, has a great future before it. Until quite recently it was not appreciated, but is now being largely used as a finishing lumber, being very fine grained, beautifully variegated, and almost as handsome as rosewood, and attains its highest perfection in this region.

Geology.

This section is nearly all included in the Carboniferous system, upper and lower.

The extreme northern portion of the Tertiary system of the Gulf States reaches north of the Ohio River. Its out-crops is restricted to the counties of Alexander, Pulaski, Massac and Pope.

The Chalk Bluff formation, beginning in the north of Alexander county and extending to near the Big Muddy in Jackson, from thence bearing east, is a portion of the Devonian system.

Coal.

The great coal measure covers all the territory east and north of a line beginning near East St. Louis, and bearing south parallel with the bluffs of the Mississippi river, leaving out the greater part Monroe county and extending to the Big Muddy, in Jackson county. Thence bearing east, in an irregular line, to the mouth of the Saline river, on the Ohio.

The veins crop out in many places along this southern line, then gradually dip to the north. At Du Quion and Belleville it is about 60 feet below the surface, while in Marion county

it is from 500 to 850 feet below. North and east of this vein is considered too deep to be profitably worked at present.

The deposit varies in thickness from three to nine feet. The general average of the mines being about seven feet. There are frequently two or more veins on the southeast border, there are five separate veins of a combined thickness of 19 feet two inches, the thinnest being three feet. While the coal is all Bituminous, there is much difference in the quality. No. 2, of the Big Muddy, in the vicinity of Murphysboro, is considered superior to most others, being a different strata, and resembling the "Brier Hill" of Ohio. The development of Southern Illinois' coal interests is yet in its infancy. No other section of the same area, on the face of the earth, can compare with this in the extent and value of its coal deposits.

Stone.

Throughout this entire section of country excellent building stone (lime-stone and sand-stone) abounds. The quarries at Alton and Chester being most noted of those at present developed on the Mississippi, Golconda, Rose Clare and others on the Ohio river, besides great numbers in the interior, notably, those near Carbondale and Shoal Creek.

A fine variegated, crystalline limestone, which takes a fine polish, and is locally known as "Cape Girardeau Marble," is found in Alexander and Union counties.

Lime Kills are numerous and furnish lime of the very best quality, which is largely exported. This is one of the growing, remunerative industries. For street paving there is no better material than the Chert of Alexander county and the gravel of Massac, which contains

about 20 per cent. of iron and cements in solid mass.

Inexhaustable beds of fireclay are found in almost every county, and is being extensively manufactured into fire brick, tile and a very superior quality of stoneware.

Recently a mountain of chalk was discovered in Union county, of great purity, and in immense quantities.

Large deposits of pure silica have lately been found in the same section.

Iron.

The only deposits of Iron which have been developed, are those of Hardin county. The ores worked were larely surface deposits, and the limonite of the St. Louis limestone deposit. Kidney, pipe and other ores abound in Saline, Hardin, Pope and other counties, south and west.

The "Illinois Furnace" was built in 1837 and run until the commencement of the war. The "Martha Furnace" was in operatin about ten years. Their daily capacity was about ten tons each, for the very best grade of metal. When all the timber near them had been used in making charcoal they were abandoned. As it is but fifteen miles across the Eagle mountains to beds of coaking coal they will be brought together by a railroad which has been surveyed.

There are fine openings for investment of capital in this region.

Other Minerals.

Extensive veins of lead and fleur-spare were discovered as early as 1820 near Rose Clare, Hardin county. These have been developed to a limited extent, and the lead found to contain from \$15.00 to \$18.00 per ton of silver.

Three mines are in operation, which ship

about 1000 barrels of fleur-spar per week. Lead is not mined at the present. Copper, also, is found in this region, but has not been developed for lack of transportation facilities.

Natural Gas.

Strong indications of natural gas exist in many parts of this section, but wells have been opened only at Sparta, Randolph county. The supply is immense and is being utilized in every conceivable way. Mills and factories are run with it at less than one-third the expense of coal. A proposition has been made to pipe it to St. Louis a distance of forty miles. No doubt there will be wells opened at other points of this region in the near future.

Mineral Waters.

Mineral springs are numerous and liberally patronized, which is proof of their efficacy in curing "all the ills that flesh is heir to." Among those which have been improved and become noted are Saylor, in Clay county, Green's, at Mt. Vernon, Jefferson county, Creal, in Williamson county, Dixon in Pope county, West Saratoga, in Union county. These and many others have been tested for many years and found very efficient in the cure of various diseases.

Salt.

In the early part of the century the salt works on the Saline river, in Gallatin and Saline counties, were the most extensive in the western country, and are capable of being profitably worked at present. The brine is of sufficient strength, and fuel, both wood and coal is abundant. There are many salt springs in this locality. Also in Jackson county and many other places. The only works in operation are those at St. Johns, Perry county, where with the brine and coal brought up under the same roof salt is profitably manufactured in large quan-

tities Strong salt water, in connection with the natural gas lately discovered at Sparta, will doubtless soon be utilized.

Agriculture.

Wheat—Early in the century it was known and demonstrated, that the counties adjacent to St. Louis, and perhaps it would be correct to say that about one-third of the northern and western counties, were well adapted to winter wheat culture, and, as a natural result, land commanded a good price. But later it has been proven that the hard-pan prairies of the northern counties, and the post oak lands of the more southern sections, which had been considered of but little value, except for grazing, were almost as valuable for the production of wheat as the deeper soils, and are now yielding crops of from 25 to 40 bushels per acre. The grain being of the very best quality.

When the grand prize of the Centennial Exposition of 1876 was awarded to wheat which had been grown on the Ozark hills, 50 miles north of Cairo, it caused considerable astonishment. Hundreds of acres, which were considered exhausted under the old system of cultivation have been reclaimed, and are now producing fine crops of this cereal.

Many instances could be cited, of growing fifteen or twenty crops of wheat, in succession no fertilizer being used, with no diminution of yields, but, on the contrary, an increase each year. This would be an utter impossibility in almost any other section, but our soil, when judiciously tilled, is constantly increasing in fertility. Throughout this entire territory, there is scarcely a county which cannot cite instances of a yield of 40 bushels, or more, per acre. In many cases as high as 50 has been reached.

While there are, occasionally, short crops,

there has never been a failure, as is so frequent in many of the newer western states and territories.

Thousand of acres of wheat land, have been and still can be bought for less than the value of one crop grown on them. The quality of the grain is shown by the eagerness of the mills of St. Louis, Evansville, Nashville, Tenn., and those of other cities, to secure our wheat, for mixing with that of other sections. Flour made from the wheat of Southern Illinois ranks in all the markets as strictly first quality.

Corn—From the earliest French settlement, of more than two centuries ago, "Egypt" has been noted for the production of corn, not only for home consumption, but vast quantities are annually shipped to southern markets. Proximity to navigable rivers, with their cheap transportation rates, making this a remunerative crop even when prices, are so low, that the inland farmer of the far west who depends entirely on railroad-freight rates, and a northern market, is using his surplus corn for fuel, because he cannot afford to send it to market. Not only is this grain shipped in bulk, but in immense quantities are sent to market in the form of bacon.

The bottom lands—and there are thousands of acres of them, not only adjacent to the rivers, but along them by creeks and smaller streams of the interior, are capable of producing from 50 to 80 bushels per acre. Large areas have averaged 100, and instances can be cited where 140 bushels have been harvested from a single acre.

There is but a small per cent of the higher lands that will not produce a good yield and the strong limestone soil of the central part, and the rich prairies of the northern counties almost equal the alluvial bottoms in the production of

this great staple.

Oats—This grain is successfully grown, and is a profitable crop in most of these counties. But the extreme southern part is a little below its latitude.

Castor Beans—Among the special crops which are very profitable, may be mentioned the castor bean, which, in both quantity and quality, are unexcelled. In fact there is no place in the United States where they do better than in the central counties of "Egypt," where they have been very largely produced for many years.

Tobacco—All our timbered lands are adapted to tobacco growing, and, in years past, all the central and lower counties grew large quantities, but at present it is not largely grown, presumably, on account of the low prices which have ruled for several years. Paducah, Henderson and Uniontown, Ky., are large tobacco markets, and the land on the Illinois side of the Ohio, is every respect equal to Kentucky soil, in the production of "the weed."

Sweet Potatoes—This is a standard crop, in sections convenient to railroads, as the market is in the north. They are largely grown for home consumption, in all parts of this region and grow to great perfection.

Irish Potatoes—They are successfully grown in every county, being a specialty in the country bordering on the Ohio river. Large shipments are annually made to the south.

Little "Hardin" alone, has shipped over half a million bushels, in a single year!

Grasses—Blue grass is indigenous to the soil. Growing in the greatest perfection, it fully equals that of the famed pastures of Kentucky. All the cultivated grasses do remarkably well supplying pasturage and hay for large herds of stock. Hay is largely produced for export, in

some localities the value of this crop is scarcely second to that of corn or wheat. Of late years orchard grass is largely grown, and highly valued for hay, seed and pasture. Its season equals in length that of blue grass, and it is especially adapted to shady localities. Clover is a very important crop, both for hay and seed, making a crop of each in a single season. Used in rotation with wheat it is of the greatest value, having proven to be the only fertilizer needed for that great staple. Since the day of the "razor backed" hog on the range is passed clover is a large factor in pork raising.

Too much cannot be said in regard to the recuperating qualities of our clay lands, through the use of clover. Many instances could be cited of the renewal of the land (by its use alone) which had been run down by constant shallow culture, for fifty, or more, years.

Vegetable Growing.

A very large industry, and one which is being greatly extended every year, is the growing of early vegetables for the northern markets. Vast quantities of spinach, peas, beans, onions, pieplant, Sweet and Irish potatoes, melons and tomatoes, etc., are grown with large profit. The difference in latitude between this southern, semi-tropical region and Chicago is as great as between Norfolk, Va., and New York, and the difference in climate causes a ready market for our vegetables, before the same article can be grown at the North.

The one item of tomatoes is simply immense. Growers have the plants, grown in green-houses, ready to bloom by the time danger of late frosts is past, and by so doing are able to ship ripe fruit at a very early date. Lands are very valuable where this industry has been developed,

but can be bought cheap in other localities, and fully as good.

Stock Raising.

Few localities surpass this for profitable stock raising. The mildness of the climate, short winters and abundance of water, are all favorable to this industry.

Considerable outside range may still be found in some localities, but the tame grasses grow so luxuriantly that these are not often utilized. Blue grass is indigenous to the soil everywhere, and affords the choicest pasturage from March to December. Corn fodder, and the vast quantities of wheat straw are utilized to a considerable extent, as also the native cane in some localities.

The raising of horses and mules is carried on quite largely, in connection with other agricultural interests. All the various breeds of heavy draft horses are bred in perfection. And some as fine roadsters as are produced in Kentucky, or any other state, are raised here.

The cattle industry has grown to large proportions. All the popular beef and butter breeds are bred, and each is highly appreciated. There is room for greatly extending this enterprise.

Sheep do well in this climate. As all sheep killed by dogs are paid for out of the tax (collected on the curs) danger from loss in that direction is removed, and sheep husbandry should be one of our most profitable industries.

Hogs are raised on every farm, in greater or less numbers. With cheap corn, abundant clover, and proximity to market, pork-raising is no small factor in the farmers' profits.

Horticulture.

This is Pomona's home—From the earliest

strawberry to the latest apple, a constant succession of all the fruits of the Temperate zone are grown in the greatest variety and perfection. This industry is yet in its infancy, but has reached dimensions that are almost incredible.

During the season the railroad lines run trains of refrigerator cars, and the northern markets are largely supplied from this section.

Beginning with the strawberry in early May on through the succession of currants, gooseberries, dewberries, cherries, early apples, raspberries, blackberries, plums, apricots, peaches, pears, grapes, quinces, till last, but by no means least, comes the standard fruit of every year—apples. Almost all leading varieties grow to perfection, yet a specialty is made of some of the most popular market sorts. Notably: Early Harvest, as first of the season and Ben Davis, Winesap and others, as latest.

This is undoubtedly one of our remunerative crops, and brings more money than any other, except wheat and corn.

The trees come into bearing much earlier than in regions farther north and east, frequently yielding considerable fruit when six or seven years old. We can say, without boasting, that our apple orchards pay better than the orange groves of Florida or California.

The windy western states, that head their flaming advertising, "The land of Big Red Apples," should see that we raise car-loads while they raise barrels.

Peaches—Perhaps there is not as much said through the public print about the peaches of Southern Illinois, as those of Delaware, South Jersey or California, yet none of these excel us in the production of this luscious fruit, and we have not to wait several years for our trees to come into bearing, as is the case farther east.

Trees have been grown the first season from the bud one and a half inches in diameter, and have borne fruit the next year. A full crop is usual on two-year-old buds, and trees are very long-lived. We average about three full crops in five years. A total failure is unknown.

Grapes—Vineyards abound throughout this entire region, and the vine is remarkably healthy and productive wherever grown. Almost every family grows a home supply, and in certain localities they are very largely grown as an article of commerce. Undoubtedly one of the most remunerative fruits produced.

Strawberries—We might commence with that oft quoted saying of a certain enthusiastic admirer of this fruit, but will do nothing of the kind; just simply say, "Everybody wants strawberries," and will have them, and we are able to furnish them in unlimited quantities and unexcelled in quality.

Twenty-five years ago a field of ten acres of strawberries was considered something wonderful in extent. And so it was when this industry was in its infancy, but now it takes a 40 or 80 acre field to attract attention.

Think of a full train of more than twenty refrigerator cars, loaded with strawberries alone, going over a single line, every day for weeks in succession, and some idea may be gained of the extent of this one branch of horticulture. No other industry distributes more money in the same length of time, as it requires a small army of pickers and box-makers, besides many other laborers, to prepare the fruit for market.

Other fruits—Space forbids a special mention of each fruit produced. Suffice it to say, they are all very profitably grown in their season, are of the finest quality, and both demand and production are increasing annually.

Manufactures.

These interests are large and varied, and while numerous and prosperous, there is room for more in every department.

Converting the large crops of wheat into flour is one of the leading interests. Fine roller mills are scattered all over the region, from two or three in a small county up to twenty or more in the larger. Some of these mills have a capacity of 500 to 650 barrels of flour per day. The quality of the product is second to none.

The lumber interest is very great, and cities and towns adjacent to rivers and railroads have many large, fine saw mills; besides these, are many in the forests, remote from public thoroughfares.

Many establishments are engaged in manufacturing a superior article of wagon and carriage material from our native woods. The unsurpassed quality of the oak, hickory and locust causes the product to rank as strictly first class.

The manufacture of barrels, and barrel material is very large, both for home consumption and export.

An interest of no small dimensions is the manufactory of fruit-box material, large factories being located at various points convenient to the sections devoted to fruit culture.

Furniture factories are numerous, and, with the abundance and variety of excellent timber, suitable for the finest work, and the facilities for transporting both the material and manufactured product, the industry is quite remunerative. Fine openings exist for an increase in this branch.

The Singer Sewing Machine Co. have, at Cairo, a plant for the manufacture of the wood-work for their various factories, and are using

vast quantities of native Sweet or Red Gum.

Many limekilns are in operation, not only for domestic supply, but largely for export.

Potteries are numerous, and noted for the excellent quality of their ware, which is in large demand to supply the southern trade.

Several establishments are devoted to the manufacture of the various sorts of handles, ax, pick, shovel, etc. A specialty is made of plow-handles, which are shipped in immense quantities to all points of the compass.

Carriages and wagons are manufactured at various points, and there are fine openings for the investment of capital in this line, both on account of the excellence of material and transportation facilities.

Almost every considerable town has an establishment for wool manufacture. This should be one of our best paying enterprises.

Creameries are very profitably conducted in many sections, and is a growing industry. Abundant room for hundreds more.

Of canneries, evaporators, preserving and jelly making, there are numbers in various localities. These could be profitably multiplied many times.

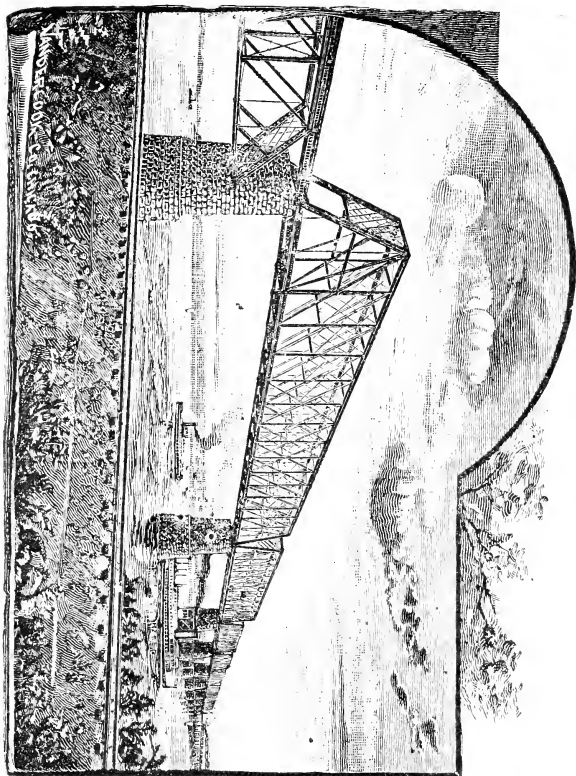
Cigars and tobacco are quite largely manufactured at some points and the product ranks high among consumers.

The different branches of manufacture from iron and steel are well represented at East St. Louis, Belleville, Centralia, Grand Tower, Cairo, Metropolis and other points, besides these are many smaller foundry and machine shops.

Building and repairing steamboats, barges, etc., is an excellent paying branch of our industries, and one which invites capital. The marine ways at Mound City, Pulaski county, is

Illinois Central Railroad Bridge

ACROSS THE OHIO AT CAIRO.



THE CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE NORTH
AND SOUTH. TOTAL LENGTH, INCLUDING
APPROACHES, FOUR MILES. TOTAL COST,
\$4,000,000.

the principal one now in operation, giving employment to several hundred laborers.

Railroad repair shops are located at Cairo, Mt. Carmel, Centralia, Belleville and East St. Louis, and in the aggregate employ several thousand workmen.

The employes of all these industries (and many not enumerated) and their families, create an excellent home market for the products of the soil.

Transportation.

By navigable rivers we have a direct outlet North, by the Mississippi and Wabash; West, by the Missouri; South, by the Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland, and East by the Ohio. These are all open to navigation nearly the entire year. The lower Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland are never closed.

When to these we add thirty railroads, traversing the country in all directions, nothing need be added in regard to our unequalled facilities for transportation.

While we hear complaints of extortionate rates in other sections, where there is little or no competition, nothing of the kind exists here. When coal is delivered at the principal river points so as to be sold at one dollar per ton, and when twenty-four quart crates of berries are carried 250 miles for fifteen cents, there is certainly no cause for complaint.

Public Debt, Taxes, Etc.

Of these thirty-four counties, eight are without debt. Seven have a debt of more than \$100,000 each. The remaining nineteen have small indebtedness, but, in most cases, their available resources are sufficient to cancel all indebtedness.

The state constitution forbids the voting of subsidies by counties or corporations, thus ren-

dering it impossible to burden the people with excessive taxation, as is the case in many of the western states.

Taxation is as low as is compatible with the support of our excellent free schools, and the noble charities of which we are justly proud. Our system of equalization, gives to the less populous counties more "school money" than they pay in all taxes combined.

An item of no small interest to the tax-payer is the special tax of 7 per cent on the gross earnings of the Illinois Central railroad, which amounts to about \$500,000 per year. Our state now ranks third in population, but is second to none in its laws and the management of its affairs.

Health.

There is certainly no question of more importance to the home-seeker than that of the healthfulness of the country.

An impression went abroad in the early settlement of "Egypt" that it was a perfect hot-bed of malaria. But it must be remembered that the first settlers chose their homes in the rich alluvial lands adjacent to rivers, lived in log cabins, sometimes without either floors or windows, drank water from the streams, or from rude cisterns, which were but holes in the ground, without brick or cement, and their principal food was the traditional "hog and hominy." People living thus had malaria, of course, so they had in the valleys of the Sciota, the Miama, and almost every stream having alluvial bottoms. But, as soon as they were brought under cultivation, they became healthy. That there is still malaria in some localities, we do not deny, but those who live (as most people do) in comfortable houses, with

proper sanitary regulations, enjoy as good health here as anywhere.

The whole country is noted for its old people, hale and happy, living the full measure of their days in this genial climate.

A case of consumption, originating here, is almost unknown. Many threatened with that dire disease have left other localities and have become strong and healthy in this salubrious climate.

Churches.

Church spires point heavenward from every city and village—and not from these alone, but the whole country is dotted over with neat, comfortable houses of worship. It is impossible to give exact figures but approximately. The Baptist church has over five hundred organizations. The Methodist Episcopal more than four hundred. The Presbyterian has near one hundred. The Psalm-Singing branches, united and reformed, give fully thirty in addition, while the Cumberland is quite strong in numbers and organizations. The Roman Catholic church is very strong, especially in the principal cities, and the old French settlements.

The German element in the population is large and they have brought from the "Fatherland," not only their proverbial industry and thrift, but their religion also, and have built many fine, substantial houses of worship, in which services are conducted in their native language.

This southern part of the "Springfield Diocese" has many elegant Episcopal churches, each the home of a congregation of devout worshipers.

Churches of the Christian denomination (sometimes called Disciples, or Reformers) are

quite numerous and prosperous.

Congregational, United Brethren, and several other denominations are also well represented, and every one may find those of kindred faith.

The various denominations are actively engaged in all the different branches of church work, and are exerting an immeasurable influence for good. Illinois is the "Barnier State" in Sunday school work and the southern part does her full share.

Schools.



State Normal, Carbondale.

No state has a better school law than Illinois. Every public school must be taught not less than five months of each year and every child between the age

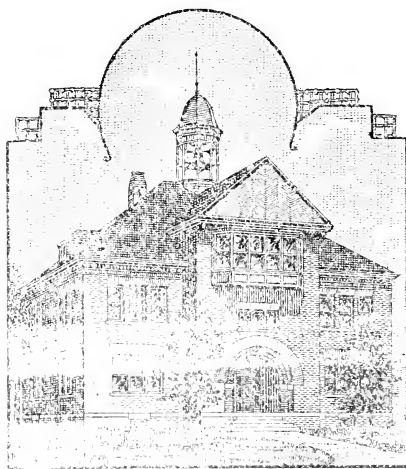
of seven and fourteen years, is compelled to attend school at least sixteen weeks each year.

For teachers, the standard is very high. Each county holds a teachers' institute annually. These are conducted by the best educators of the state.

The log schoolhouse and the pedagogue who taught the three "R's," are things of the past. Each district now takes pride in a neat, modern schoolhouse, and the incompetent aspirant fails to receive a teacher's certificate.

All cities and towns of any considerable size have a fine system of graded schools. Graduates from these have quite a liberal education, and are well fitted to enter higher institutions of learning, of which we have many.

Among these may be mentioned the State



Normal at Carbondale, Jackson county; McKendree, Lebanon, St. Clair county; Hayward College, Fairfield, Wayne county; Ewing College, Ewing, Franklin county; Men-
 -dell female college, Clinton
 -Troy, Madison

Hayward College, Fairfield, county; Shurtleff College, Alton, Madison county; Union Academy, Anna, Union county; St. Mary Female College, Mt. Carmel, Wabash county; Parish Academy, Belleville, St. Clair county; Loretto Female Academy, Cairo, Alexander county; Cumberland Presbyterian College, Buffalo, White county; Creal Spring Seminary, Creal Spring, Williamson county.

Besides these are many private schools, both male and female, at different points.

Society.

It must not be supposed that this is a new country, with society necessarily in a chaotic state. Nor a region whose inhabitants are strangers to the refinements of social life. Far from it.

While all classes may find congenial society, the educated and refined are in an overwhelming majority, and the law-abiding element is consequently so strong that lawlessness and

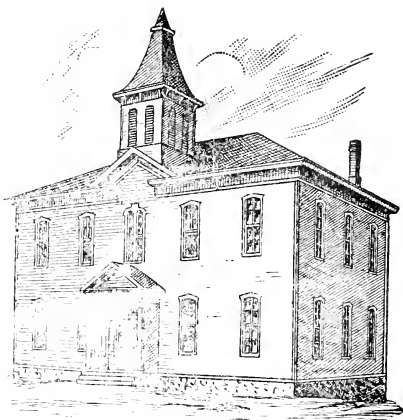
crime are firmly held in check. Several counties have no licensed saloons, and in the majority liquor is sold only in larger towns.

The various fraternal societies are very strong and influential. But we call special attention to our numerous churches and schools, which are the pride of our citizens. The influence constantly exerted by these reaches every class.

The emigrant to the far west will wait many long years for such advantages as exist here at present.

"Sum of the Whole Matter."

Since the day of the Cherubin and flaming sword were placed at the East of Eden, man has had no earthly paradise; yet some places approach nearer than others, and there is certainly no place, where there are more of the elements necessary to form another Eden, than abounds here. We have a most genial climate, and a soil suited to a greater variety of products than can be found in any other section. We have timber, coal and iron in the greatest abundance, with plenty of the other important minerals, natural gas and nature's own healing fountains. Our location is most central, giving us access to



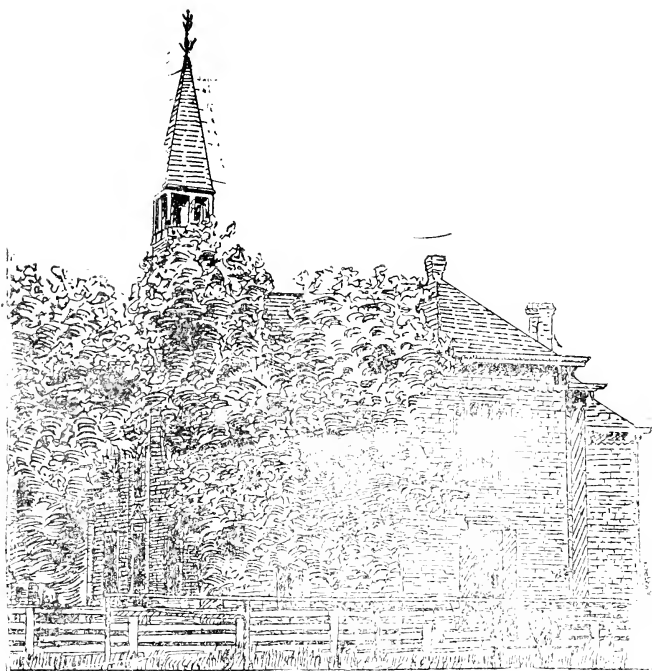
Union Academy, Anna.

the best markets to both North and South, while

our navigable rivers and numerous lines of railroad afford unequaled facilities for commerce.

And now, we beg others to come and help us develop this land, so favored by nature, and share its prosperity, and while doing this, we claim to be the richest beggars on earth. Our visible natural wealth is as great as that of any other section, but our underground wealth is beyond computation. We invite capital to aid in the development of all these natural resources. All industries are remunerative in a greater or less degree, and manufacturer, miner and producer, alike, find ready markets and lowest rates of transportation.

The question very naturally arises, "What is the value of land in this favored section?" The answer is rather difficult, as the price of land is as variable as its quality. Of course, land in proximity to cities, and that which is devoted to horticulture is the highest, but yet the valuation is not excessive. Choice farming land in the vicinity of St. Louis can be bought for \$100 per acre. And from that figure, according to location, down to \$5 for good unimproved land; \$10 to \$15 per acre for that which has been partly improved, and, in nearly every county, well improved farms may be purchased at \$15 to \$25 per acre, which in many cases, will include one or more good veins of coal under the whole tract.



Massac County Court House, Metropolis.

Massac County.

No county in Southern Illinois has more natural advantages than Massac. Situated on the extreme southern border, it has a frontage on the Ohio river of about thirty miles, beginning ten miles above Paducah, Ky., and extending to within thirty miles of Cairo. The county lies in an irregular shape, having an extreme width of but eighteen miles, and an area of 147,784 acres. Lying between the two southern spurs of the Ozark hills it has an average elevation of

about four hundred feet above the Gulf. The surface is generally rolling, or gently undulating, giving perfect drainage and making it exceedingly well adapted for agriculture, horticulture and stock-raising, all of which are carried on with success and profit by a rural population of about 8000. Situated as Massac county is, as far south as Richmond, Va., it offers the emigrant a climate peculiarly attractive. It is not too far South, nor yet too near the North Pole, and is consequently exempt from the fierce heat of the Southern summers as well as the deadly blizzards of the North and Northwest. It may in other words be said to lie in the perfect golden mean between the two extremes, while it actually partakes of the characteristics and advantages of both and has but few of the disadvantages or disagreeable features of either. The soil varies considerably in different localities, from the deep, black, rich loam of the bottoms to the lighter clay loam of the uplands and hills. Fully nine-tenths of the county may be said to be susceptible of cultivation, and very little labor and outlay would reclaim almost every acre in a short time. The soil is underlaid with a stiff clay subsoil and sufficient calcareous matter is contained to cause it to produce wheat and all the cereals in abundance, and these form the staple productions. No stone is found on, or near the surface, to interfere with cultivation. Originally the entire surface of the county was timbered. About one-half is still covered with timber, such varieties as oak, ash, poplar, hickory and cottonwood predominating, all of which are very valuable from a commercial standpoint and will in many instances pay the purchaser of lands a handsome profit and leave him his farm free of cost. There are no important water courses in Massac county, although a number of small

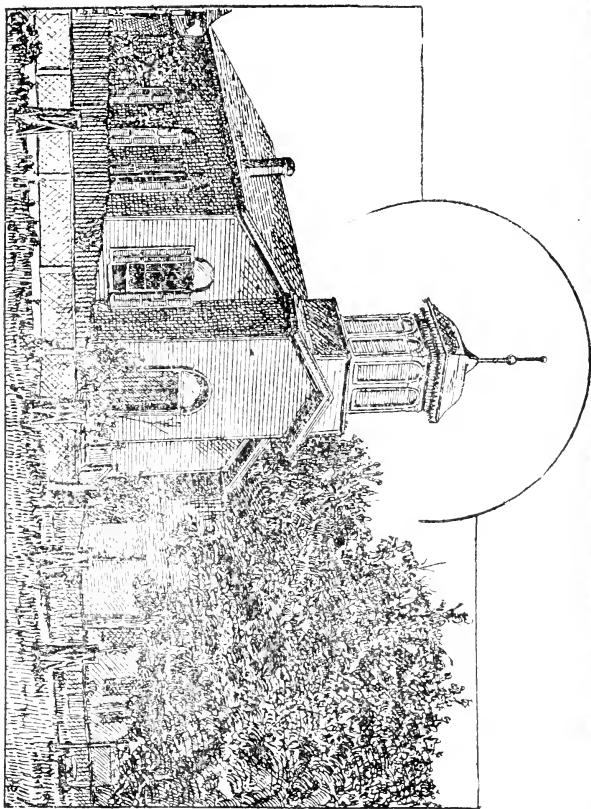
streams are found, valuable for drainage purposes and the stock water which they afford. Water is obtained anywhere, however, in wells at a depth of from 20 to 80 feet, and of a most pure and excellent quality. Wheat, corn, oats, sweet and Irish potatoes, rye, timothy, clover, hungarian grass, millet, sorghum, apples, peaches, pears, grapes, strawberries and other small fruits, as well as vegetables of almost every kind, are grown in profusion, and the oldest settler does not remember a total failure of crops. The population is principally made up of white people, among them being many German farmers, whose well-known habits of industry, thrift and economy make them specially valuable to any section in which they locate.

There are in the county thirty churches, and all the leading denominations are represented. The county is subdivided into forty-three school districts, and sixty-five teachers are actually employed. All the ordinary farm crops are grown profitably, but wheat is the leading crop—more than one-half of all the cultivated land being seeded to this cereal. The soil of this section will, and has in many cases produced from ten to twenty crops in succession without any falling off in yield, and that too, without any fertilizing; yet clover should be sown on each crop and plowed under, to insure continued fertility. Seasons like the present produce a heavy crop the same season that it is sown, and much is being turned under that would make from one to two tons per acre, from seed sown on wheat last spring. The usual practice is to seed to clover once in three or four years. Let the first growth the following year make hay, and the second seed. This is quite as profitable as a crop of wheat.

Corn is the second grain in importance, and

is profitable on all varieties of land, but the alluvial land adjacent to streams is especially well adapted to its growth.

All grasses are at home in this soil and climate, and hay is an important crop. Blue grass



Presbyterian Church, Third Street Metropolis.

is indigenous and of great value for pasturage. Within the past few years Japanese clover is spreading rapidly along highways.

The pecan is a native of the alluvial lands, and the nuts are an exceedingly profitable crop.

A special crop of great importance is the growing of top onion sets. This is very profitable and is being rapidly extended. The soil of Massac is second to none for the production of fruit, and since the completion of a direct railroad line to the North, fruit-growing is fast coming to the front. Thousands of apple, peach, pear and other fruit trees are being planted. This is a most promising industry.

Items of Interest.

A short list of good yields may be of interest. Hundreds might be collected, but the few will suffice.

On his farm in the west end of the county, Judge James C. Courtney, the peresent year raised 125 acres of wheat which averaged thirty-eight and two-fifths bushels per acre.

John Stewart made 910 bushels of wheat from only 20 acres of land—45 bushels per acre.

Bill Sexton comes to the front with 2005 bushels of wheat from 50 acres of land.

J. D. Kennedy, near Joppa, threshed 29 bushels per acre from land which had been in constant cultivation more than fifty years. No fertilizers were ever applied, and the land was sown to c over but once.

B. Sexton, of the same vicinity, raised 41 bushels of wheat per acre, two successive years, on the same land.

John Aderson, of the same section had 102 bushels from two acres.

J. D. McElya, of near Metropolis, raised 140 1-2 bushels of corn on one acre. He also took the \$25 prize of Wm. H. Maule, of Philadelphia, for the best cantelope—weight 28 1-2 pounds.

Near the same place, S. H. Johnson took \$15 premium for the best yield of tomatoes, and \$50

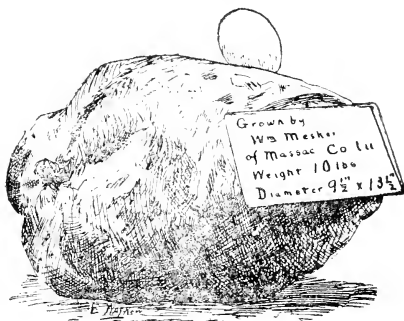
premium on largest yield of Japanese buckwheat (a product belonging to a cool climate). He sowed one pound and reaped 364 pounds.

These premiums were offered by Wm. H. Maule and competition was open to the world.

D. H. Freeman gathered 125 barrels per acre of apples from an orchard that had been set eleven years. The land had been in cultivation more than seventy years, no fertilizers having ever been applied.

John Oakes, from an acre of Ohio river melon land, netted over \$200. Entire cost of production was less than \$10.

L. C. McBride has a cherry tree some forty years old, diameter two and a half feet; spread of branches over thirty feet. This tree has borne from full to very full crops annually, since it first came into bearing, with but two or three exceptions. Forty dollars worth of fruit has been sold from it in a single season, and the tree is still in good condition. The correct name or variety is not known.



F. N. Kirk raised 300 bushels of early Irish potatoes to the acre, without the use of commercial fertilizers, with only ordi-

Sweet Potato.

nary cultivation. No extra efforts having been put forth, or extra yield sought.

Robert Williams, a practical gardner, in the autumn of '91 planted a crop of potato onions.

Last spring, between the rows, early cabbage; after that, sweet corn, and a crop of turnips will yet be produced on this same ground; making four crops in one year and all good.

These "items" might be multiplied almost indefinitely, they will give an idea of the productiveness of the soil, and its value for agriculture and horticulture in general, and prove that this county has indeed great inducements to offer those who are seeking homes in a mild climate.

Less than four years have elapsed since the completion of the first railroad through this county. A direct line from St. Louis to Paducah, Ky., which traverses the county about 24 miles. As the line passes through the most undesirable part of the county immediately after entering it, the traveler's first impressions may not be favorable. Neither will he appreciate the little city of Metropolis, the county seat of Massac, as the railroad barely touches the extreme rear suburbs, then curves east toward its terminus at Brooklyn, seven miles above on the river bank.

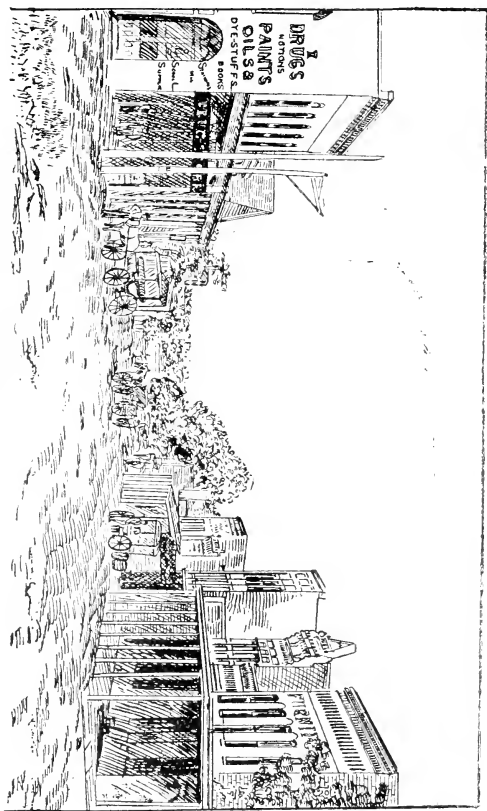
The vast forests adjacent to the railroad are fast disappearing before the lumbermen and saw-mills, and soon, in their stead, will appear fine productive farms. Yet this timber is a great source of wealth to the county, as immense quantities of ship and bridge timber, railroad coach and car material, furniture, carriage and wagon material, plow, ax and pick handles, pipe, hogshhead and barrel staves and headings, etc., are annually manufactured for export.

The county has no outstanding indebtedness; its warrants are worth their face value, and the rate of taxation is low.

Metropolis City.

Metropolis the county seat of Massac county,

is situated on the bank of the Ohio river, and for beauty of location is not surpassed by any city in the valley of the Ohio. From the riverside there is a gradual rise for a distance of nine blocks,



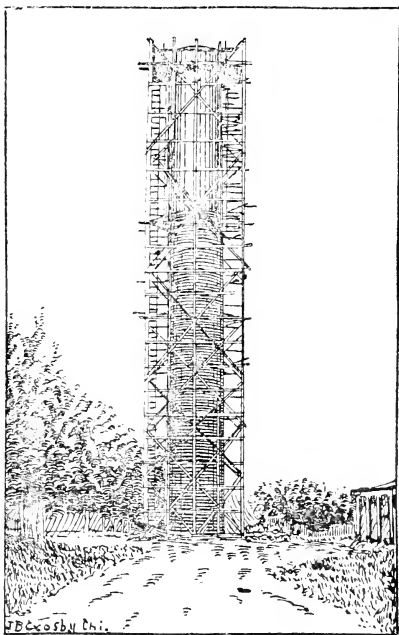
Ferry Street, From Fifth Looking Towards the River.

when the highest point is reached 89 feet above low water mark. From thence a gradual decline in the opposite direction affords perfect natural drainage and adds greatly to the attractiveness of the site.

The streets, which are eighty and one hundred feet wide, with sidewalks of generous width, are beautifully graded and graveled, and such is the character of the gravel or conglomerate (found in inexhaustable quantities within the corporation) that it becomes almost as hard as granite. Mud and dust are impossible on these streets, and as a hard rain washes them perfectly clean, the sanitary condition of the city is of the best.

The city is furnished with the most approved system of water-works and electric light plant.

Metropolis is emphatically a city of "homes." The great majority of the citizens own the residences which they occupy, and a laudable pride is taken in neat and tasteful build-



Standpipe. Height, 104 Feet.

ings, made doubly attractive by grounds ornamented with trees, shrubbery and flowers.

As places of public recreation, there are within the corporation three parks; and in the suburbs beautiful groves, the fair grounds and the historic site of Old Fort Massac, which occu-

pies a commanding position on the river bank just above the city.

The population is about 4,000 and is generally made up of a very superior class, hence society is excellent, and but few places of like size have a population more highly cultivated and refined.

The city has eight churches. The denominations are Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Evangelical Lutheran (German), Congregational, Baptist, Christian, African M. E., and African Missionary Baptist. These all occupy neat and commodious houses of worship. An unfailing index to the character and worth of the community.

In addition to these are organizations of both Episcopal and Catholic, who have no buildings at present, but contemplate erecting substantial modern style churches in the near future.

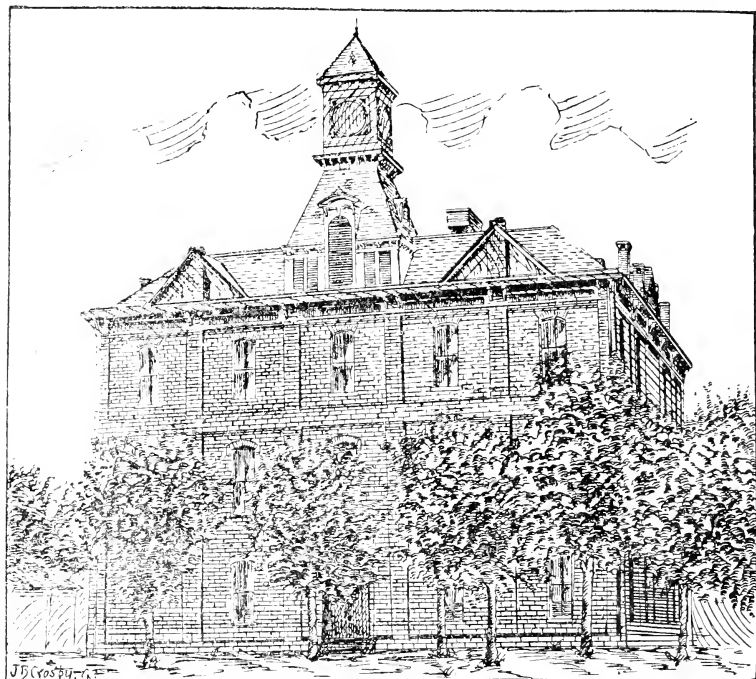
The Fraternal societies are represented by flourishing lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, Grand Army Posts and others.

An elegant opera house furnishes facilities for lectures, concerts and dramatic entertainments.

The city supports a good system of graded schools, nine months in the year. The white school is held in a handsome three-story mansard roof, brick building, with eleven rooms, heated by steam, and having natural slate blackboards, new and improved furniture and apparatus. A highschool course of four years fits its pupils for active life. The high school is supplied with complete philosophical and chemical apparatus of the latest kind. Connected with the system of education a colored school of three rooms in a handsome brick building, comfortably fitted up for the same length of time. There are twelve teachers employed in the white

schools, and the enrollment for the past year was 687. The colored school requires the services of three teachers and enrolls 223 pupils, and the city superintendent making a corps of sixteen teachers.

Metropolis has two strong and carefully managed banks. The oldest being that of



Public School Building, 75 Feet Square, 11 Rooms, Cost \$26,000.

Brown & Bruner, established in 1870. This firm has ample capital and large and varied experience in banking. Total liabilities to depositors, \$179,000. Total assets near \$300,000.

The First National bank was established in

1881. This bank is amply capitalized and enjoys the well merited confidence of the public. Total assets \$225,000. Total liabilities \$129,500.

The manufacturing interests are large and varied. Prominent among these are the saw mills of Wm. Towle & Co., erected in 1867 at a cost of \$105,000. These are the largest and most complete hard-wood saw mills in the state, the mills and yards cover an area of ten acres, and give employment to two hundred and fifty men.

A specialty is made of long gang-sawed oak for ship and steamboat building. Material is furnished to every ship-yard on the Mississippi river, and on the Missouri as far west as Bismark.

This firm also manufactures the beautiful "embossed wood," which is so much admired for ornamental finishing.

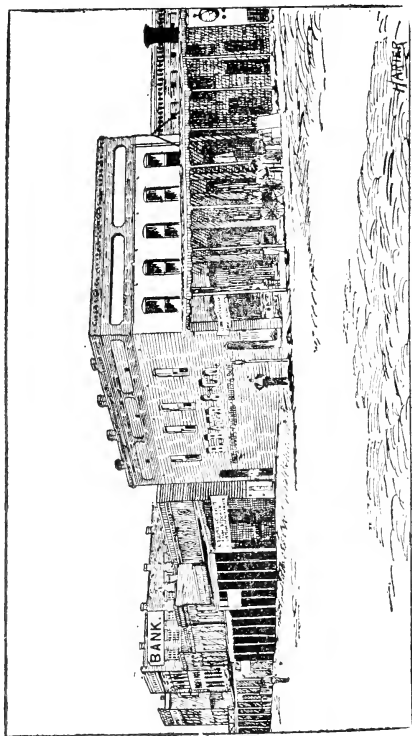
Massac Iron Co., established in 1888. Cost of plant \$65,000. Capacity at present, 30 tons per day, but will soon be enlarged to a 50 ton plant. The firm manufactures all kinds of water and gas pipe, employing about eighty men. The situation is peculiarly favorable for iron industries, as freight rates are very low, owing to river and rail competition and nearness to iron and coal fields.

Hub and spoke factory of Yost, Bigelow & Co. Established in 1865. Manufacturers of all kinds of wagon and carriage wood-work, Sarvin patent wheels, ax, pick, sledge and plow handles. Capital invested in plant \$100,000. Employ seventy-five men the year around, and use from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 feet of oak and hickory lumber yearly. The plant covers an area of 75,000 square feet.

Riverside mills of H. Quante & Bro. Built

1881 at a cost of \$50,000. Capacity 200 barrels per day. This building is a substantial brick, five stories in height, containing full roller machinery of the latest and best pattern. Employ 20 men.

Empire mills, Austin & Co., proprietors. Cost of plant \$15,000. Capacity 75 barrels per



Corner Third and Ferry Streets.

day. Employ eight hands. The mills are of brick, the machinery first class, and the product equal to the best.

Kraper's cigar factory employs thirty hands, and manufactures 100,000 cigars per month.

Pottery, Firebrick and Tile manufactory of N. Shick. Cost of plant \$10,000. Employs about

twenty men.

Creamery, owned and operated by a stock company. Capacity 400 pounds per day.

Woolen factory—Employs eight hands. Cost of plant \$10,000.

Besides these there are numerous industries, among which may be mentioned: Foundry, machine shop, two saw mills, two stave and heading factories, two plow handle factories, three wagon and repair shops, two brick-yards, manufacturing tanners, sheet iron workers, etc.

Some sixty mercantile establishments, embracing all the different branches.

Good hotels, livery stables, etc.

Besides Metropolis there are several smaller towns. These are Brooklyn, Big Bay, Samoth, Joppa, New Columbia, Round Knob and Unionville.

The sum of the advantages of Massac county.—A mild and salubrious climate, a rich, productive soil, an abundance of pure, wholesome water; timber for building, fencing and fuel, a low rate of taxation and an honest, careful administration of county affairs, excellent church facilities, good schools, cheap lands to be had on reasonable terms, great inducements to manufacturers, the best of shipping facilities by rail or river, and an orderly, law-abiding, industrious and progressive population.

The object of this pamphlet is not that of "booming," but to give plain facts for the benefit of those who may be contemplating emigrating from their present homes to a country where the conditions of life are more favorable.

We need a canning factory and a steam evaporating establishment, and can offer inducements to parties who will locate here. A fruit and produce dealer could do well. We have plenty of room for all who will cast their lot with

us, either as manufactures, merchants or farmers.
Come and enjoy some of the blessings that the
Lord has bestowed upon us.

D. H. FREEMAN,
Sec'y. Massac County Fruit Growers Ass'n.

NOTICE.

The cuts of Massac county are not what I
contracted for. They don't do justice to our
city, and especially to our fine graveled streets.
Some are so bad they can't be used. I furnished
good clean cut photos. Here is what was
promised:

"We will make you good cuts. We guarantee
our work." WESTERN ILLUSTRATING Co.,

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—D. H. FREEMAN.

ELIJAH P. CURTIS,
REAL ESTATE AGENT
AND CONVEYANCER.

Metropolis, Massac County, Illinois.

ABSTRACT OFFICE IN BLOCK
SOUTH OF COURT HOUSE.

Will Pay Taxes for Non-Residents, and
Assist them to Sell or Buy Real Estate. Having
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I can turnish Abstracts of Title for Land and
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